

## **FAMILY CENTERED SERVICES**

Historically, a Children's Services Worker other than one completing a child abuse/neglect investigation was assigned to provide services to a family following the Investigation process. However, changes in Missouri's Child Welfare Practice, including how child abuse and neglect reports are screened and responded to, has placed greater emphasis on a continuum of service, making it more likely that a worker first assigned to a report of abuse or neglect would remain assigned to a family through the provision of services. This is especially true for families who become involved with the Division through a Family Assessment process. Families receive Family-Centered Services when children remain in the home, as well as when children are placed out of the home.

Families entering the child welfare system due to reports of child abuse or neglect receive case management services that are referred to as Family-Centered Services (FCS). The FCS model acknowledges the importance of conceptualizing the family as a system that is constantly interacting with other systems in its environment. The emotional, sociological, and environmental circumstances of the family and its members must be considered. The goal of these services is to assist the family in changing, as quickly as possible, conditions that bring, or could bring, harm to the children, and preventing unnecessary out-of-home placement of children.

FCS may also be provided if the family requests preventive treatment services. Such services are offered whenever a child abuse/neglect investigation has been determined as "Unsubstantiated - Preventive Services Indicated". Services are available to families, including expecting parents, who request services that might prevent child maltreatment or family dysfunction. Problem pregnancy services may be provided to single or married women and the expected child's father and/or the woman's husband, or significant other. At minimum, these are essentially problem-solving and referral services to help clients explore options, but clients are also eligible for more extensive and long-term services, which may be provided directly or purchased.

The number of families beginning FCS during fiscal year 2004 (SFY-04) was 10,018, compared to 10,174, FCS case openings during fiscal year 2003 (SFY-03). During SFY-04, a total of 21,098 families had active Family-Centered Service cases. These include service cases with families who may or may not have children in alternative care placements. Approximately twenty-nine percent (29%), of FCS families currently (SFY-04) being served are resulting from Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect reports compared to fiscal year 2003 (SFY-03), where just over thirty three percent (33%) of FCS families being served resulted from substantiated abuse/neglect. In fiscal year 2003 (SFY-03) almost thirty-three percent (32.6%) of FCS cases were opened due to a Family Request

for Preventive Services, while in fiscal year 2004 (SFY 04), just over thirty-three percent (33.3%) were opened due to a Family Request for Preventive Services. In fiscal year 2003 (SFY-03) less than 10 percent (9.2%) were opened due to Court Order only and in fiscal year 2004 (SFY-04), eight percent (8.0%) were opened. During the fiscal year 2003 (SFY-03), approximately twenty-two percent (22.3%) FCS cases were opened due to Family Assessment and in fiscal year 2004 (SFY-04), the number rose slightly at just under twenty four percent (23.9%). A little over five percent (5.6%), of FCS cases opened in fiscal year 2003 (SFY-03) were a result of a Newborn Crisis Assessment and in fiscal year 2004 (SFY-04), approximately six percent (6.2%), of FCS openings were a result of a Newborn Crisis Assessment.

During SFY-03, family centered services were terminated for 11,069 families. Desired goals were achieved in 75.3% of these families. During SFY-04, family centered services were terminated for 10,157 families. Desired goals were achieved in 75% of these families.

The following table reflects the total number of families involved in active Family-Centered Service Cases from SFY-00 through SFY-04.

<b>Family-Centered Services Families Active in FCS SFY 2000 – 2004</b>		
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Families</b>	<b>Percent Change from Prior Year</b>
SFY-2000	24,803	-1.83%
SFY-2001	26,008	4.63%
SFY-2002	25,107	-3.59%
SFY-2003	22,437	-10.46%
SFY-2004	21,098	-5.97%

Based on an analysis of Family-Centered Services, the following tables reflect statewide data regarding children and families served by the FCS program during SFY-03 and SFY-04.

<b>Family-Centered Services Families Active SFY-03 by Open Reason</b>		
<b>Open Reason</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Probable Cause CA/N	6,796	30%
Family Requests Services	7,315	33%
Opened Due to Court Order	2,055	9%
Newborn Crisis Assessment	1,266	6%
Family Assessment	5,005	22%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,437</b>	

<b>Family-Centered Services</b> <b>Families Active SFY-04 by Open Reason</b>		
<b>Open Reason</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Probable Cause CA/N	6,042	29%
Family Requests Services	7,025	33%
Opened Due to Court Order	1,688	8%
Newborn Crisis Assessment	1,311	6%
Family Assessment	5,032	24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,098</b>	